

Impact of Denoising Retinal OCT images in Classification

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DECLARATION

This is to certify that the thesis work entitled “**Impact of Denoising Retinal OCT images in Classification**” carried out by the student ID: 1502216, 1602266, 1602273, under our supervisor as a requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

DEDICATED TO
OUR BELOVED PARENTS AND RESPECTABLE TEACHERS

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Abstract

In this paper the main motive is to coming up with the impact of denoising Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Retinal images via showing accuracy rate difference between classification with noisy images and denoised images. Retinal OCT images are always noisy. Even in better cases, it's hard to find a single image without any noise. Image classification is used for classify among different types of that same category. Block Matching 3D (BM3D) is the denoising algorithm which will be used for preparing denoised dataset with the help of Sk-image (scikit-image) and OpenCV. For classification, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), specifically Inception V3 network is used on the both data sets (Noisy Images Data set and Denoised Image Data set) with Python and the Keras deep learning library. In data sets, they are prepared with Drusen and Normal Images. Applying classification models over those data sets, a clear concept will come out as the impact of denoising retinal OCT images in classification.

Key-words: Speckle noise, Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), Block Matching 3D (BM3D), Scikit-image, OpenCV, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Inception V3, Keras, Python, Druse

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Chapter1

Introduction

Optical coherence tomography (OCT) is a recently established imaging technique to describe different information about the internal structures of an object and to image various aspects of biological tissues, such as structural information, blood flow, elastic parameters, change of polarization states, and molecular content. In contrast to OCT technology development which has been a field of active research since 1991, OCT image segmentation has only been more fully explored during the last decade. Segmentation, however, remains one of the most difficult and at the same time most commonly required steps in OCT image analysis. No typical segmentation method exists that can be expected to work equally well for all tasks.

One of the most challenging problems in OCT image segmentation is designing a system to work properly in clinical applications. There is no doubt that algorithms and research projects work on a limited number of images with some determinate abnormalities (or even on normal subjects) and such limitations make them more appropriate for bench and not for the bedside. Moreover, OCT images are inherently noisy, thus often requiring the utilization of 3D contextual information. Furthermore, the structure of the retina can drastically change during disease. Nevertheless, OCT image denoising is a rapidly growing and important area and a great deal of efforts went into designing algorithms for automatic noise reduction of retinal OCTs.

Covering the inside of most of the eye, the retina is a multilayered structure responsible for transforming light energy into neural signals for further use by the brain. In very general terms, the processing of light starts with the light sensitive photoreceptor cells (rods and cones), which are actually located in the outer portion of the retina (away from the incoming light). These cells convert the light signal into action potentials that are transmitted by the bipolar neurons in the central layers of the retina to the ganglion cells of the inner retina. It is the axons of the ganglion cells that eventually exit the eye to form the optic nerve. Other cells in the retina, such as horizontal cells, amacrine cells and inter plexiform neurons, also help in the processing of the neural signal at a local level. Neuroglial cells (such as Muller cells) provide structure and

support. Based on its appearance from light microscopy, the retina is traditionally considered to be composed of the following ten major “layers” (starting with the outermost layer).

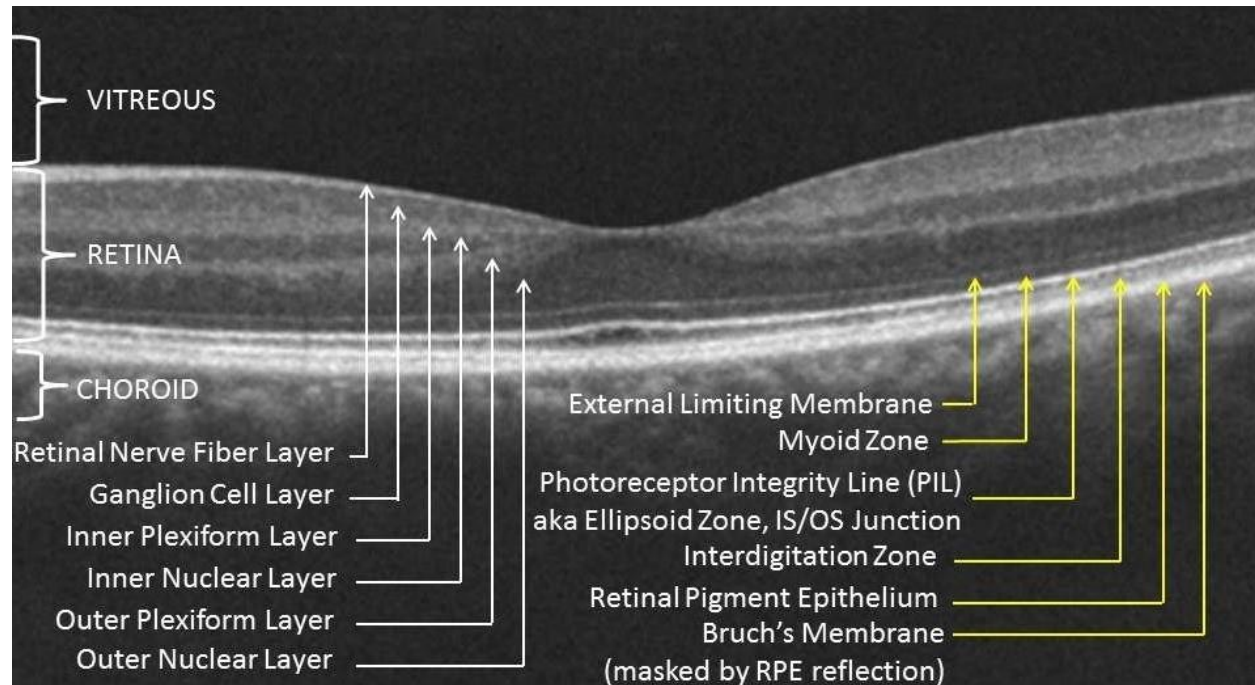


Figure: Different Layers of Retinal OCT Images

Reginal pigment epithelium (RPE): single layer of pigmented hexagonal cells

Photoreceptor layer: the outer (containing the light-sensitive discs) and inner segments of rods and cones

External (or outer) limiting membrane (ELM or OLM): intercellular junctions between photoreceptor cells and between photoreceptor and Muller cells (not an actual membrane)

Outer nuclear layer (ONL): rod and cone cell bodies

Outer plexiform layer (OPL): synapses between photoreceptor cells and cells from the inner nuclear layer

Inner nuclear layer (INL): cell bodies of bipolar cells, horizontal cells, amacrine cells, inter plexiform neurons, Muller cells, and some displaced ganglion cells

Inner plexiform layer (IPL): synaptic connections between bipolar cell axons and ganglion cell dendrites

Ganglion cell layer (GCL): mostly ganglion cell bodies

Nerve fiber layer (NFL): ganglion cell axons

Internal limiting membrane (ILM): innermost membrane of retina separating the retina from the vitreous.

These show that Retinal OCT Images have a lot of information in it to deal with. But the biggest problem that arises is the noises. There are many kinds of noises arrive in dealing with these types of images. Such as- Amplifier Noise (Gaussian Noise), Salt-and-pepper noise, Poisson noise, Speckle noise. But for OCT images, speckle noise is our main focus.

For examining the OCT images, we'll reduce the speckle noises of those. There are many methods those are already applied but we'll use Python as our main tool. Two very popular and efficient libraries of Python are OpenCV (CV stands for Computer Vision) and Sk-image (Scikit image). OpenCV is a cross-platform library using which we can develop real-time computer vision applications. It mainly focuses on image processing, video capture and analysis including features like face detection and object detection and scikit-image is an open-source image processing library for the Python programming language. It includes algorithms for segmentation, geometric transformations, color space manipulation, analysis, filtering, morphology, feature detection, and more.

Now-a-days optical coherence tomography (OCT) imaging is a very important well-established clinical tool for assessing optic nerve head (ONH) tissues, and for monitoring many ocular and neuro-ocular pathologies. Because of speckle noise of limited bandwidth, the visualization quality of an OCT image is often degraded. The image contrast deteriorates by the granular pattern of speckle noise and it is quite difficult to resolve small and low-intensity structure. These affects the clinical interpretation of OCT data. Again, the poor images have automated segmentation errors. To improve denoising OCT scans, there are many hardware and software scheme. Hardware is needed to robust noise suppression through frequency compounding and multi-frame averaging (spatial compounding). On the other hand, software is needed to denoise through numerical algorithms or filtering techniques. This deep learning is applied in the medical

imaging field such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Single-frame denoising and multi-frame denoising are the two categories of denoising method according to the number of frames. Both of these techniques, multi-frame denoising is commonly used method. To improve the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), the average of all uncorrelated frame is needed. But this technique needs hardware modification and complicated acquisition processes. Single-frame methods are divided into two groups:

Image-domain methods and wavelet-domain methods. Image-domain methods often adopt regularizes from the field of image processing, e.g., TV regularization needs a Gamma distribution for the speckle. Wavelet-based methods exploit basic properties of wavelet coefficients of OCT images. TO develop the quality of OCT images, Gaussian Scale Mixtures with Bayesian least square estimation, interval type II fuzzy based thresholding filtering, block-matching 3D (BM3D) based technique in the logarithm space are used. Among all the techniques block-matching 3D (BM3D) gives the best result. To denoise a noisy picture we need scikit-images, total variation, bilateral, and wavelet denoising filters. The collection of algorithms for OCT image processing are known as scikit-image. This is used because there is no restriction to use it and it is free. To denoise a noisy version of OCT image we may use total variation, bilateral, and wavelet denoising filters. “Posterized” images with flat domains separated by sharp edges are produced but total variation and bilateral algorithms. The degree of posterization can be changed by controlling the tradeoff between denoising and faithfulness to the original image. For features learning, features extraction and dimensions reduction, deep network like autoencoder and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) is most popular. In BM3D technique, OpenCV-Python which is library of python is used for numerical operations with a MATLAB-style syntax.

For image recognition, Inception v3 is commonly used model which shows greater than 78.1% accuracy.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Chapter 3

Data-set Preparation

For determining the impact of denoising OCT images in classification we need to prepare two different datasets. One is with noisy images and the other one is with denoised images. They will be prepared based on two categories of images. They are – Drusen and Normal Category. The preparation process is below:

Noisy Image Dataset:

A noisy image dataset is prepared with 2100 images of Drusen and Normal Category. They images were collected from **Kaggle**. After downloading the dataset from Kaggle, we prepared a new data set from those images. We didn't take those images randomly. The quality, shape and size were considered as the basic requirements for selected those images.

Then finally we got our dataset of 2100 images.

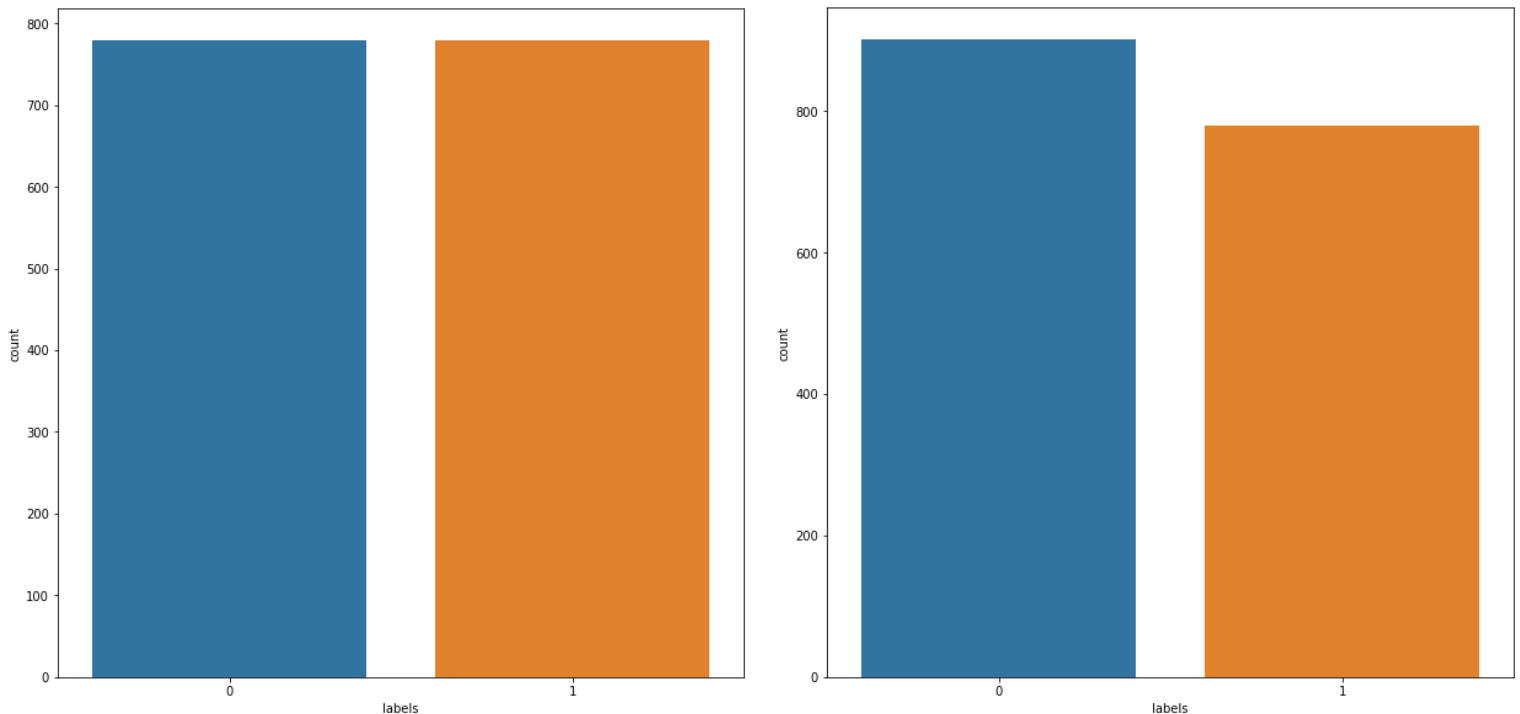


Figure: Noisy Dataset before and after of splitting for training and testing

Denoised Image Dataset:

This dataset is prepared with the same images which were used for the noisy image dataset. For denoising the images there are several denoising algorithms. Like- Gaussian Filter, Non-Local Means filter, Anisotropic Diffusion Filter etc. But we've chosen Block Matching 3D AKA, BM3D filter for denoising the noisy images. Among the other denoising algorithms, **BM3D** shows the most details than the others that's why we choose that.

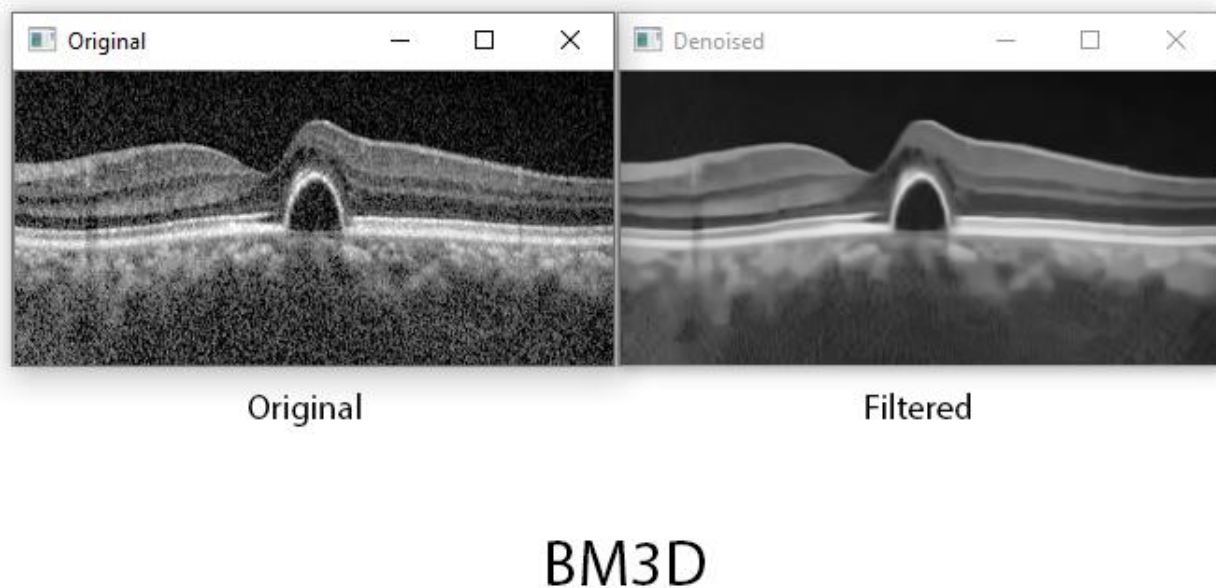


Figure: Original Image VS Filtered Image with BM3D

We put the whole noisy image dataset into the BM3D filter and got a same 2100 images dataset but these are denoised.

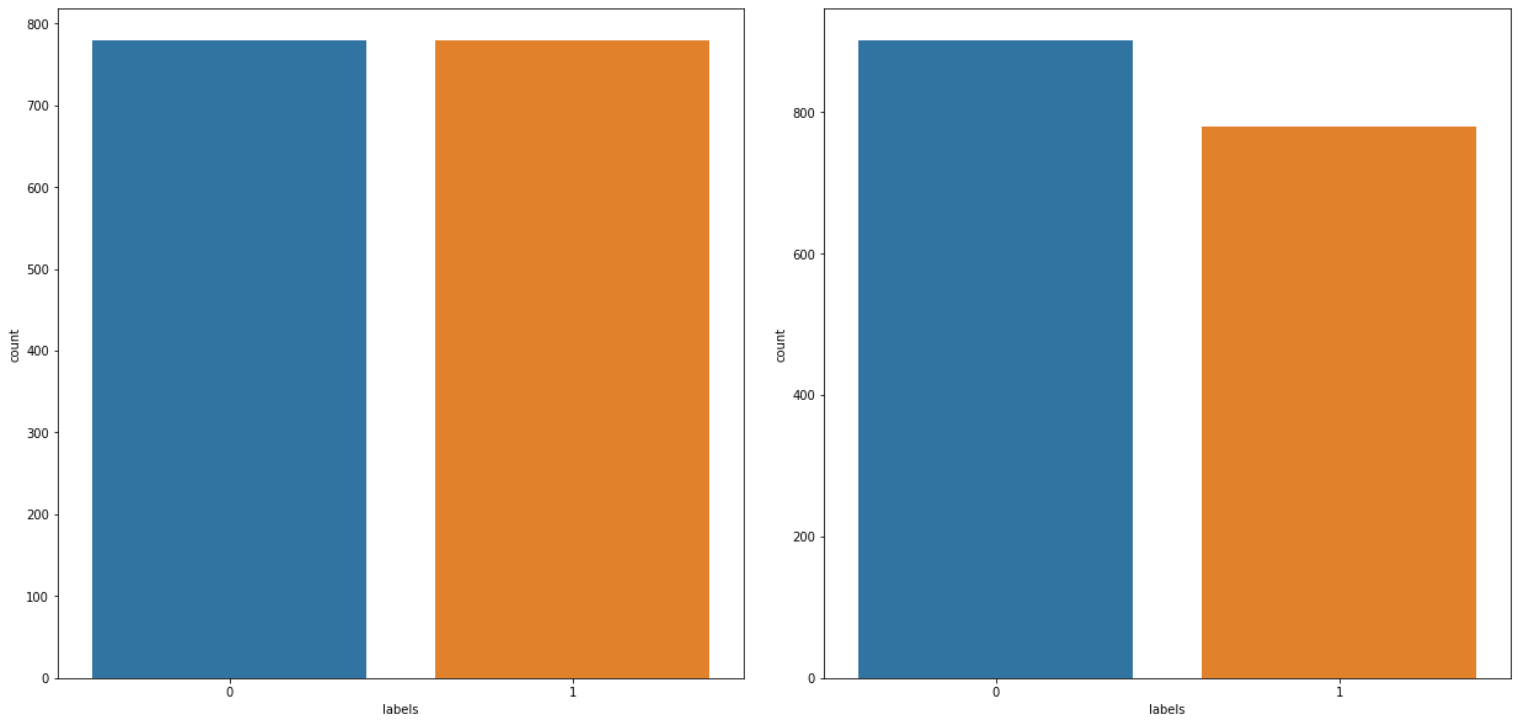


Figure: Denoised Dataset before and after of splitting for training and testing

Chapter 4

Methodology

4.1 Noise in Optical Coherence Tomography Images:

Amplifier noise (Gaussian noise):

The standard model of amplifier noise is additive, Gaussian, independent at each pixel and independent of the signal intensity. In color cameras where more amplification is used in the blue color channel than in the green or red channel, there can be more noise in the blue channel. Amplifier noise is a major part of the "read noise" of an image sensor, that is, of the constant noise level in dark areas of the image.

Salt-and-pepper noise:

An image containing salt-and-pepper noise will have dark pixels in bright regions and bright pixels in dark regions. This type of noise can be caused by dead pixels, analog-to-digital converter errors, bit errors in transmission, etc. This can be eliminated in large part by using dark frame subtraction and by interpolating around dark/bright pixels.

Poisson noise:

Poisson noise or shot noise is a type of electronic noise that occurs when the finite number of particles that carry energy, such as electrons in an electronic circuit or photons in an optical device, is small enough to give rise to detectable statistical fluctuations in a measurement.

Speckle noise:

Speckle noise is a granular noise that inherently exists in and degrades the quality of the active radar and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images. Speckle noise in conventional radar results from random fluctuations in the return signal from an object that is no bigger than a single image-processing element. It increases the mean grey level of a local area. Speckle noise in SAR is generally more serious, causing difficulties for image interpretation. It is caused by coherent processing of backscattered signals from multiple distributed targets. In SAR oceanography, for

example, speckle noise is caused by signals from elementary scatters, the gravity-capillary ripples, and manifests as a pedestal image, beneath the image of the sea waves.

4.2 Image Denoising with Block Matching 3D Filter

Block-matching and 3D filtering (BM3D) is a 3-D block-matching algorithm used primarily for noise reduction in images. It is an algorithm for attenuation of additive spatially correlated stationary (aka colored) Gaussian noise. This package provides a wrapper for the BM3D binaries for use for grayscale, color and other multichannel images for denoising and deblurring.

Collaborative filtering is a special procedure developed to deal with these 3D groups. We realize it using the three successive steps: 3D transformation of 3D group, shrinkage of transform spectrum, and inverse 3D transformation. The result is a 3D estimate that consists of the jointly filtered grouped image blocks. By attenuating the noise, the collaborative filtering reveals even the finest details shared by grouped blocks and at the same time it preserves the essential unique features of each individual block. The filtered blocks are then returned to their original positions.

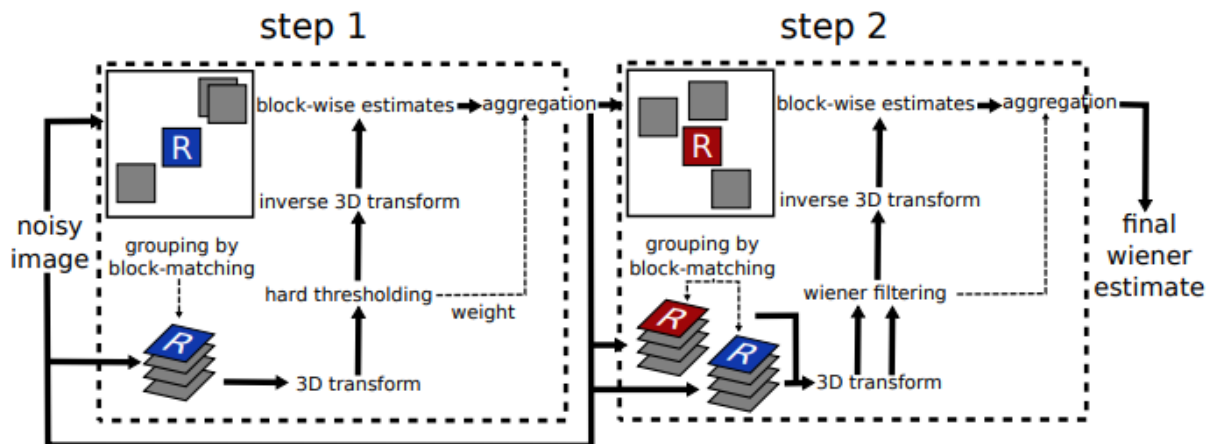


Figure: Scheme of the BM3D algorithm.

For performing the algorithm, we are going to use OpenCV library from Python as our primary tool. On the other hand, BM3D is also a library of python. After importing those, we need to set a parameter of that library to perform the task.

Those are: sigma_psd and stage_arg.

where for our noisy image, we've used

sigma_psd=30/255,

stage_arg=bm3d.BM3DStages.HARD_THRESHOLDING

4.3 Classification with Inception V3 Convolutional Network

Inception V3 by Google is the 3rd version in a series of Deep Learning Convolutional Architectures. Inception V3 was trained using a dataset of 1,000 classes (See the list of classes here) from the original ImageNet dataset which was trained with over 1 million training images, the Tensorflow version has 1,001 classes which is due to an additional "background" class not used in the original ImageNet. Inception V3 was trained for the ImageNet Large Visual Recognition Challenge where it was a first runner up.

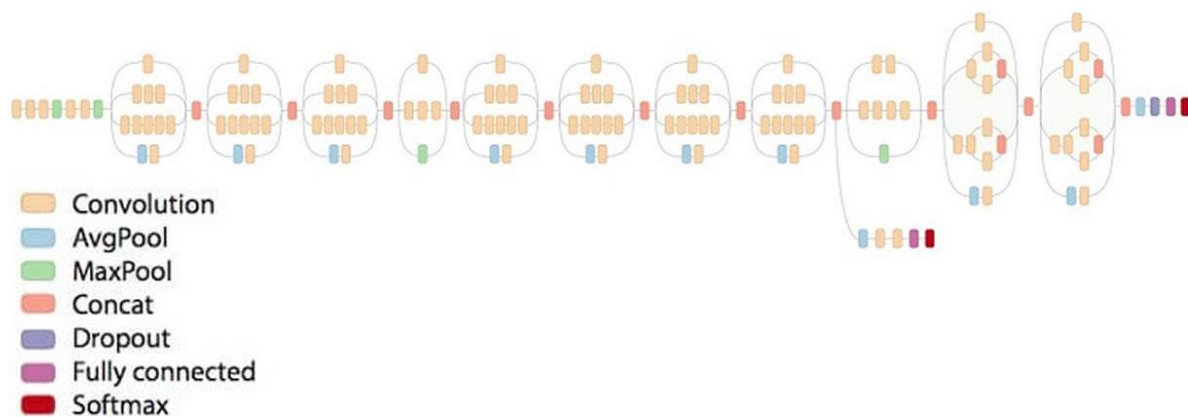


Figure: Inception V3 architecture

Convolutional neural networks are a type of deep learning neural network. These types of neural nets are widely used in computer vision and have pushed the capabilities of computer vision over

the last few years, performing exceptionally better than older, more traditional neural networks; however, studies show that there are trade-offs related to training times and accuracy.

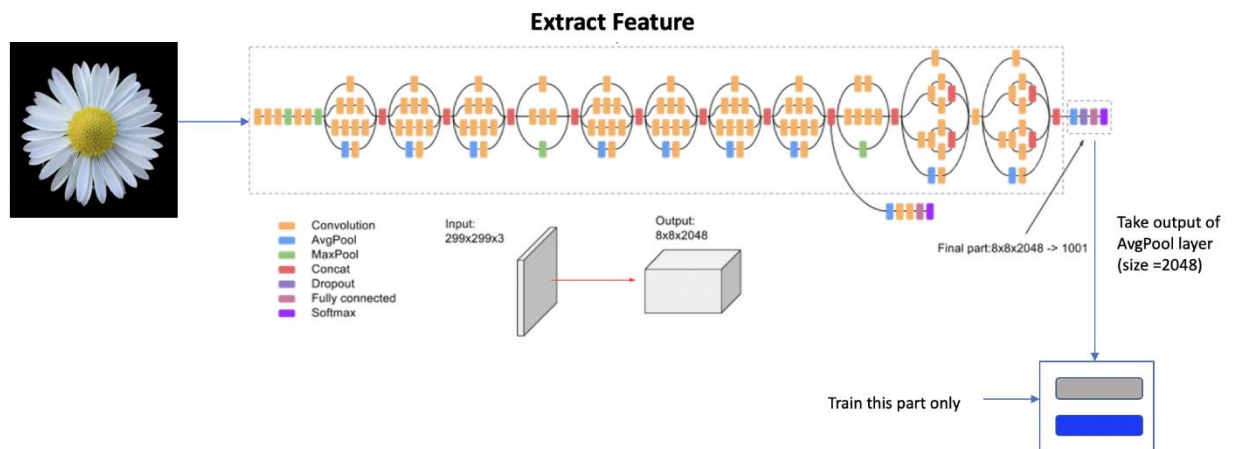


Figure: Inception V3 Transfer Learning Model

Optionally loads weights pre-trained on ImageNet. Note that the data format convention used by the model is the one specified in the `tf.keras.backend.image_data_format()`.

Note: each Keras Application expects a specific kind of input preprocessing. For InceptionV3, call `tf.keras.applications.inception_v3.preprocess_input` on your inputs before passing them to the model.

Arguments:

- **include_top:** Boolean, whether to include the fully-connected layer at the top, as the last layer of the network. Default to True.
- **weights:** One of None (random initialization), ImageNet (pre-training on ImageNet), or the path to the weights file to be loaded. Default to ImageNet.
- **input_tensor:** Optional Keras tensor (i.e., output of layers. `Input()`) to use as image input for the model. `input_tensor` is useful for sharing inputs between multiple different networks. Default to None.

- **input shape:** Optional shape tuple, only to be specified if include top is False (otherwise the input shape has to be (299, 299, 3) (with channels last data format) or (3, 299, 299) (with channels first data format). It should have exactly 3 inputs channels, and width and height should be no smaller than 75. E.g. (150, 150, 3) would be one valid value. input shape will be ignored if the input tensor is provided.
- **pooling:** Optional pooling mode for feature extraction when include top is False.
 - None (default) means that the output of the model will be the 4D tensor output of the last convolutional block.
 - avg means that global average pooling will be applied to the output of the last convolutional block, and thus the output of the model will be a 2D tensor.
 - max means that global max pooling will be applied.
- **classes:** optional number of classes to classify images into, only to be specified if include top is True, and if no weights argument is specified. Default to 1000.
- **classifier activation:** A str or callable. The activation function to use on the "top" layer. Ignored unless include top=True. Set classifier activation=None to return the logits of the "top" layer.

Returns:

A keras Model instance.

Raises

- **Value Error:** in case of invalid argument for weights, or invalid input shape.
- **Value Error:** if classifier activation is not SoftMax or None when using a pretrained top layer.

Chapter 4

Experimental Setup

4.1 Hardware Requirement:

This whole process doesn't need a lot of hardware. We just need to capture the images then process those. For capturing the OCT images, we need to use a hardware named **OCT Machine / Optical Coherence Tomography Machine**. OCT Machine is a non-invasive imaging evaluation and useful in diagnosing many eye problems. OCT uses light waves to take images of your retina. With OCT, your ophthalmologist can view each of the retina's distinctive layers. OCT uses rays of light to measure retinal thickness. No radiation or X-rays are used in this test, an OCT scan does not hurt and it is not uncomfortable.



Figure: OCT Machine

4.2 Software Requirement:

This whole process is mainly based on the Software works. After getting the images from the OCT Machine, it's all about the software works. In previous chapters, we've already mentioned that our main tool will be Python.

Some basic requirements are given below:

- 1 Anaconda Environment
- 2 Jupyter Notebook

Anaconda Environment: In Anaconda Environment, all new environments created with conda automatically include Python, Jupyter Notebooks and pip. You can specify any other packages you want included in your new environment. By default, conda creates a new environment in the project's env directory—so that all team members have access to the environment. Anaconda provide **conda** command for you to do a lot of common tasks such as install / uninstall packages, create / remove isolated python environment etc. Isolated python environment is very useful when you develop Python application for different Python version. For example, if you want to run the Python app on both Python 2.7 and Python 3.6, then you need to test the app on both the two Python version.



Figure: Anaconda Environment

Chapter 5

Result and Discussion

5.1 Performance Evaluation

As this thesis is all about evaluating the impact of Denoising OCT images for classification, there is going to be two repeated process.

1. Classification with noisy image dataset
2. Classification with denoised image dataset

Classification with Noisy Image Dataset:

In this step after completing the testing, we got the accuracy of **95.226%**

```
70
Epoch 3/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 307s 197ms/step - loss: 0.1826 - acc: 0.9416 - val_loss: 0.2007 - val_acc: 0.92
96
Epoch 6/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 325s 209ms/step - loss: 0.1406 - acc: 0.9647 - val_loss: 0.1756 - val_acc: 0.93
22
Epoch 9/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 310s 199ms/step - loss: 0.1409 - acc: 0.9564 - val_loss: 0.2034 - val_acc: 0.92
21
Epoch 10/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 325s 209ms/step - loss: 0.1290 - acc: 0.9628 - val_loss: 0.1586 - val_acc: 0.95
23

Keras CNN - accuracy: 0.9522613065326633

      precision    recall  f1-score   support

   Drusen         0.94         0.96         0.95         199
   Normal         0.96         0.94         0.95         199

 avg / total         0.95         0.95         0.95         398
```

Figure: Accuracy of classification with noisy image dataset

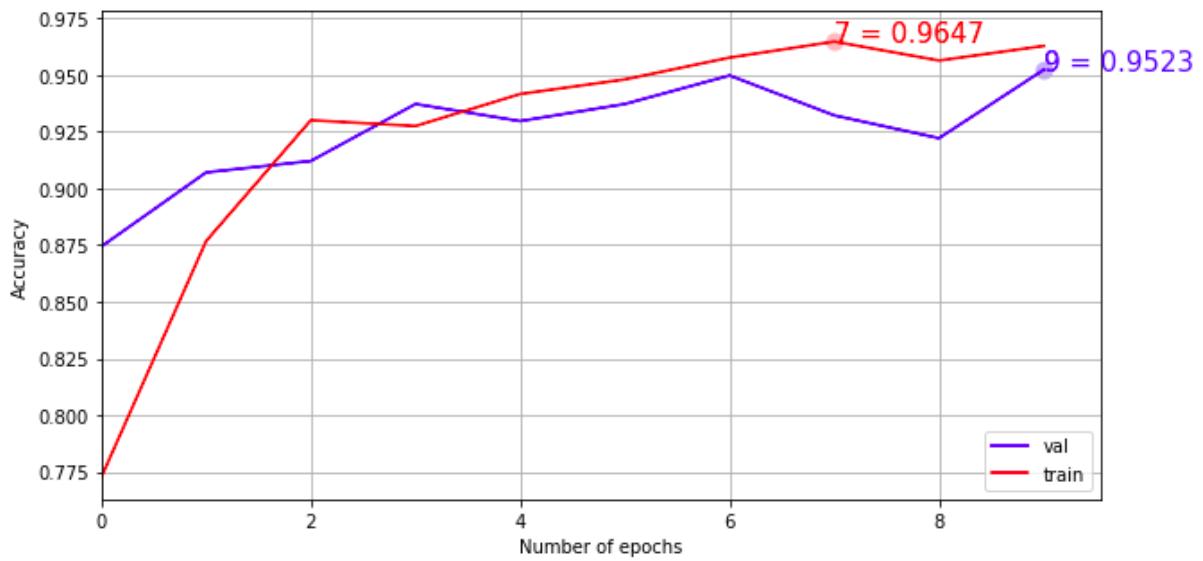


Figure: Training and validation accuracy curve on the basis of number of epochs

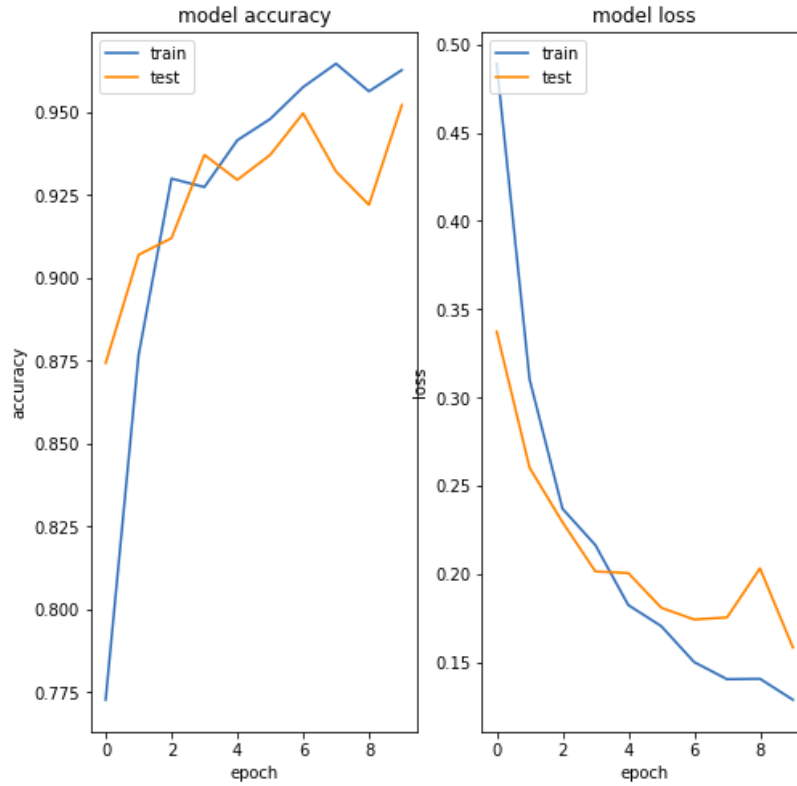


Figure: Model accuracy and model loss curve

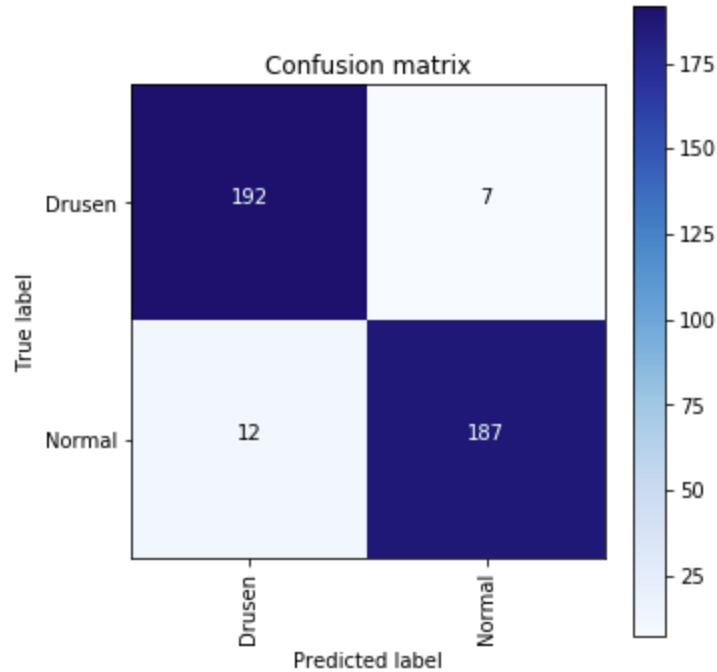


Figure: Confusion Matrix for noisy image dataset classification

Classification with Denoised Image Dataset:

In this step after completing the testing, we got the accuracy of **95.70%**

```

70
Epoch 3/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 307s 197ms/step - loss: 0.1826 - acc: 0.9416 - val_loss: 0.2007 - val_acc: 0.92
96
Epoch 6/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 325s 209ms/step - loss: 0.1406 - acc: 0.9647 - val_loss: 0.1756 - val_acc: 0.93
22
Epoch 9/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 310s 199ms/step - loss: 0.1409 - acc: 0.9564 - val_loss: 0.2034 - val_acc: 0.92
21
Epoch 10/10
1558/1558 [=====] - 325s 209ms/step - loss: 0.1290 - acc: 0.9628 - val_loss: 0.1586 - val_acc: 0.95
23

Keras CNN - accuracy: 0.9522613065326633

      precision    recall  f1-score   support

   Drusen         0.94         0.96         0.95         199
   Normal         0.96         0.94         0.95         199

 avg / total         0.95         0.95         0.95         398

```

Figure: Accuracy of classification with denoised image dataset

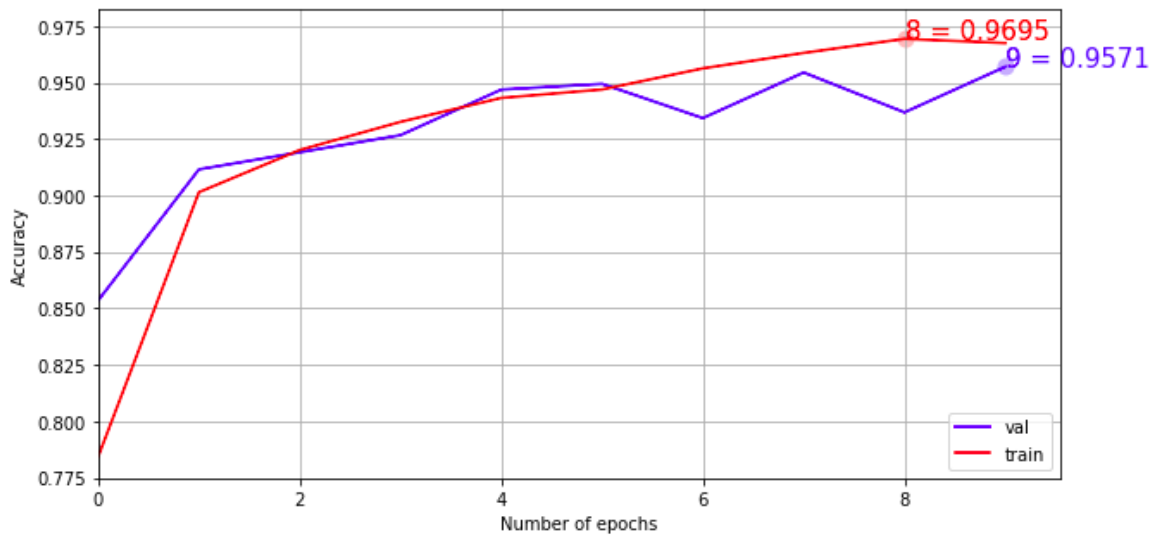
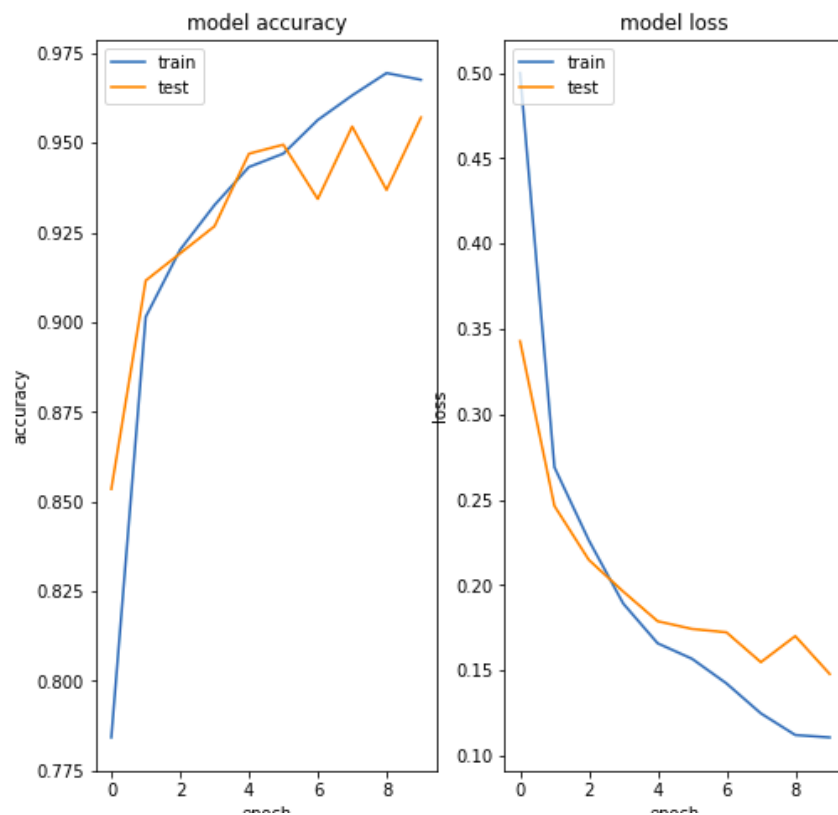


Figure: Training and validation accuracy curve on the basis of number of epochs



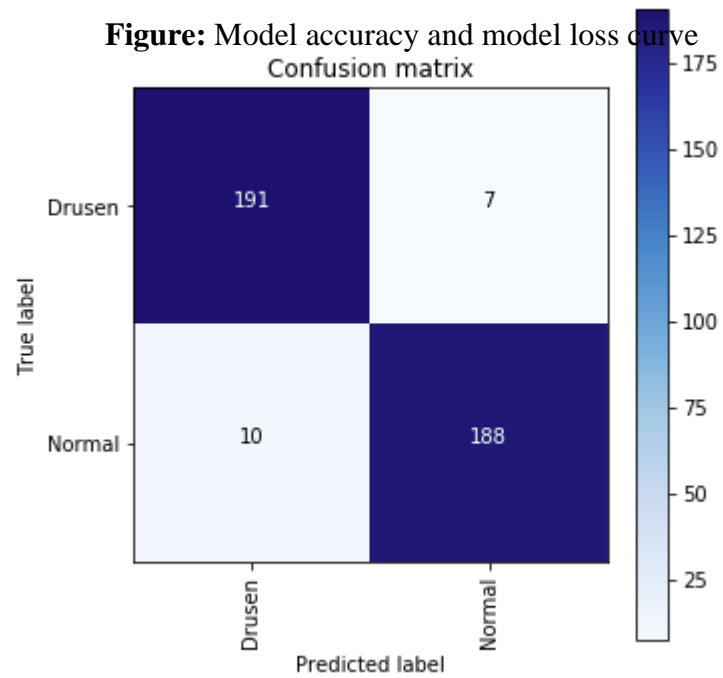


Figure: Confusion Matrix for noisy image dataset classification

5.2 Comparative Study

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Future Work

6.1 Conclusion

6.2 Future Work

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